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Sent: Monday, January 18, 2016 1:20 PM

To: St.John, Matt@Waterboards; Blatt, Fred@Waterboards; Mangelsdorf, Alydda@Waterboards;
cafferata@calfire.ca.gov; Jack Lewis

Subject: Re: Partial history of biased decisions that led to excessively impaired conditions if Elk River

Comments, data, and photos of pollution and hydrologic derangement associated with present WDR enrollments and/or past THPs in Elk River

Hi, Yesterday I took a hike up the ridge between Railroad Gulch and South Fork Elk River/Tom's Gulch to try and figure why my domestic water supply is so polluted and what could be done to protect my water supply, to prevent channel infilling of the Elk River, and sediment wastes from depositing all over my orchard. I have several hundred photos (200-500+) of polluted water discharging from roads to attach to this HRC/Green Diamond WDR comment.

The lower portion of the hike was over a road constructed in 2003 for the Casey Jones harvest plan. The upper portion of the road has apparently been opened up under (perhaps) the McCloud/Shaw plan enrollment for roads.

Watershed wetness was very high. Possibly the highest wetness since 2002. See the data set below for the yellow highlight that identifies the 10 minute rainfall recorded at station SFM during the road reconnaissance time period.

Observations: Some portions of the road were rocked and the rock surface did reduce discharge of sediment somewhat. Most of the road was not rocked and severe erosion was evident especially on the portions where there was a cutbank, soil pipes gushing ground water, and/or sheet flow. Nearly every rolling dip or water bar was transporting/discharging highly turbid water, road rock or not. I may have looked at 100+ water bars. Even clean ground water from pipes commonly became turbid as it sheeted across and down rocked surfaces.

The waterbar/dips were concentrating large amounts of water and turbid discharge could be followed over the side and down. I followed several discharges down to gully water courses or turbid ponding in what appeared to be water courses. At least one of the poundings could have been an old slump block, but perhaps it was an old skid road. This was near the road to the landing at about mile 1 to 2. At a second landing road large amounts of piping ground water were being discharged onto an area with 5 or 6 pistol butted trees(2-3 feet in diameter) and a large area of younger alder below.

Where the areas adjacent to the road or landing had been clear cut it seemed like overland flow was greatest in quantity.

The majority of the 3 miles of road was experiencing heavy overland sheet flow. The portion of road mile 1.5 to mile 3 or 3.5 seemed to be below some of Green Diamond's clear cuts; in this area numerous soil pipes were spurting out huge amounts of ground water and some pipe water was very turbid. A culvert near mile 2 to 3 was gurgling under the rocked road and a collapse was underway.

Somewhere near mile 3 several water bars were concentrating runoff and discharging it into the head of an old but freshly eroding 50-100' high scarp with several large down redwood trees strewn hither and yon. Pink flagging with "Timber Harvest" writing was visible in the area.

By the time I turned around to walk back the rain had stopped and overland flow began to diminish as did discharge of pollution.

I didn't see any foresters or water quality inspectors out observing what may have been the biggest overland flow event in ten years.

I will begin sending photos; 3 per email, until the comment period runs out, so that you will have some evidence of whether your WDRs prevent pollution and attain water quality objectives. My observation is that your WDRs do not prevent pollution or attain water quality objectives.

Jesse Noell

Sta, year, day, time, code, code, code, code, stage, turbidity, bad sensor, 10min.rain

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DSC_0495



DSC_0499